



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Jerrold Franklin, *et al.*) Date: January 29, 2004  
Application No.: 09/834,389 ) Group Art Unit: 1745  
Filed: April 13, 2001 ) Examiner: Greg Cantelmo  
For: Integrated and Modular BSP/MEA ) Attorney Ref. No.: 109.04  
Manifold Plates for Fuel Cell Use )  
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*Response to Office Action with Amendments*

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

In response to the office action dated August 1, 2003, the applicants respectfully submit the following remarks and amendments.

As required by the newly amended Rule 1.121, the amendments are submitted on their own pages.

**Remarks**

As amended, *all* the claims of the present application now include an aspect that is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art, namely a bipolar separator plate (BSP) that is rolled, crimped, or bent so as to overlap the adjacent membrane electrode assembly (MEA). The examiner has already acknowledged that such an overlap would be given "patentable weight" if it were clearly expressed in the claims, as it now is.

Claims 1 - 37 thus stand ready for allowance. Applicants reserve their right to propose other subject matter disclosed in this application in a separately-filed continuation or continuation-in-part application.